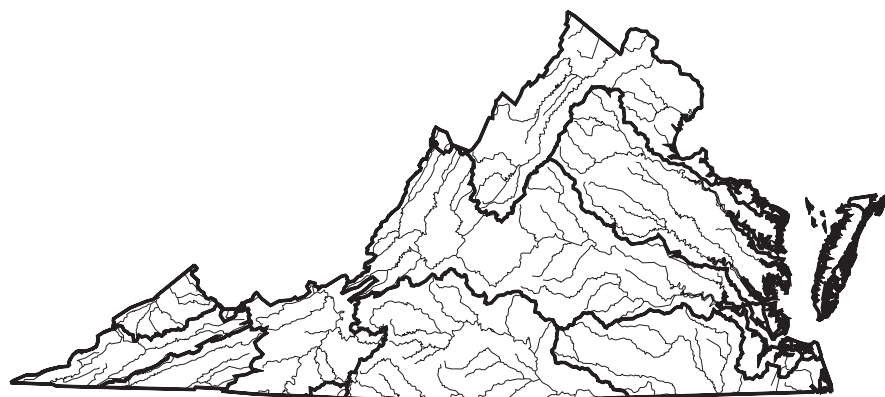


# Virginia



— Basin Boundaries  
(USGS 6-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Virginia 1996  
305(b) report, contact:

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## Surface Water Quality

Of the 31,431 river miles surveyed, 76% fully support aquatic life use, another 22% fully support this use now but are threatened, and over 2% do not fully support this use. As in past years, fecal coliform bacteria are the most widespread problem in rivers and streams. Agriculture and pasture land

contribute much of the fecal coliform bacteria in Virginia's waters. Urban runoff also is a significant source of impacts in both rivers and estuaries.

Ninety percent of Virginia's publicly owned lakes fully support aquatic life use. The most common problems in lakes include dissolved oxygen depletion, coliform bacteria, pH, and temperature, primarily from nonpoint sources.

In estuaries, 11% of the surveyed waters fully support aquatic life use, 82% support this use but are threatened, and 6% partially support this use. Nutrients are the most common problem in Virginia's estuarine waters, followed by organic enrichment and low dissolved oxygen concentrations. All of Virginia's Atlantic Ocean shoreline fully supports designated uses.

The VDH Bureau of Toxic Substances Information has four health advisories and one restriction currently in effect for fish consumption.

## Ground Water Quality

As in previous years, bacterial violations continue to be the predominant MCL exceedance. Nitrates and trihalomethane were also detected in a small percentage of the sampled private wells. Virginia revised ground water protection rules with the Ground Water Management Act of 1992.

## Programs to Restore Water Quality

Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality recommends control measures for water quality problems identified in the 305(b) report in their Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs). WQMPs establish a strategy for bringing impaired waters up to water quality standards and preventing the degradation of high-quality waters. Control measures are implemented through Virginia's point source permit program and application of best management practices for nonpoint sources.

## Programs to Assess Water Quality

The Ambient Water Quality Monitoring Program has grown to include 1,114 monitoring stations, a 24% increase over the previous report. These stations are sampled for chemical and physical parameters on a variable schedule. The Core Monitoring Program consists of a subset of 51 stations that are sampled for pesticides, metals, and organic chemicals in fish and sediment on a 3-year cycle.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

<sup>a</sup> A subset of Virginia's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the State's 305(b) report for a full description of the State's uses.

<sup>b</sup> Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

<sup>c</sup> Size of significant publicly owned lakes, a subset of all lakes in Virginia.

## Individual Use Support in Virginia

